

CONFIDENTIAL.]

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REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th June 1897.

CONTENTS :

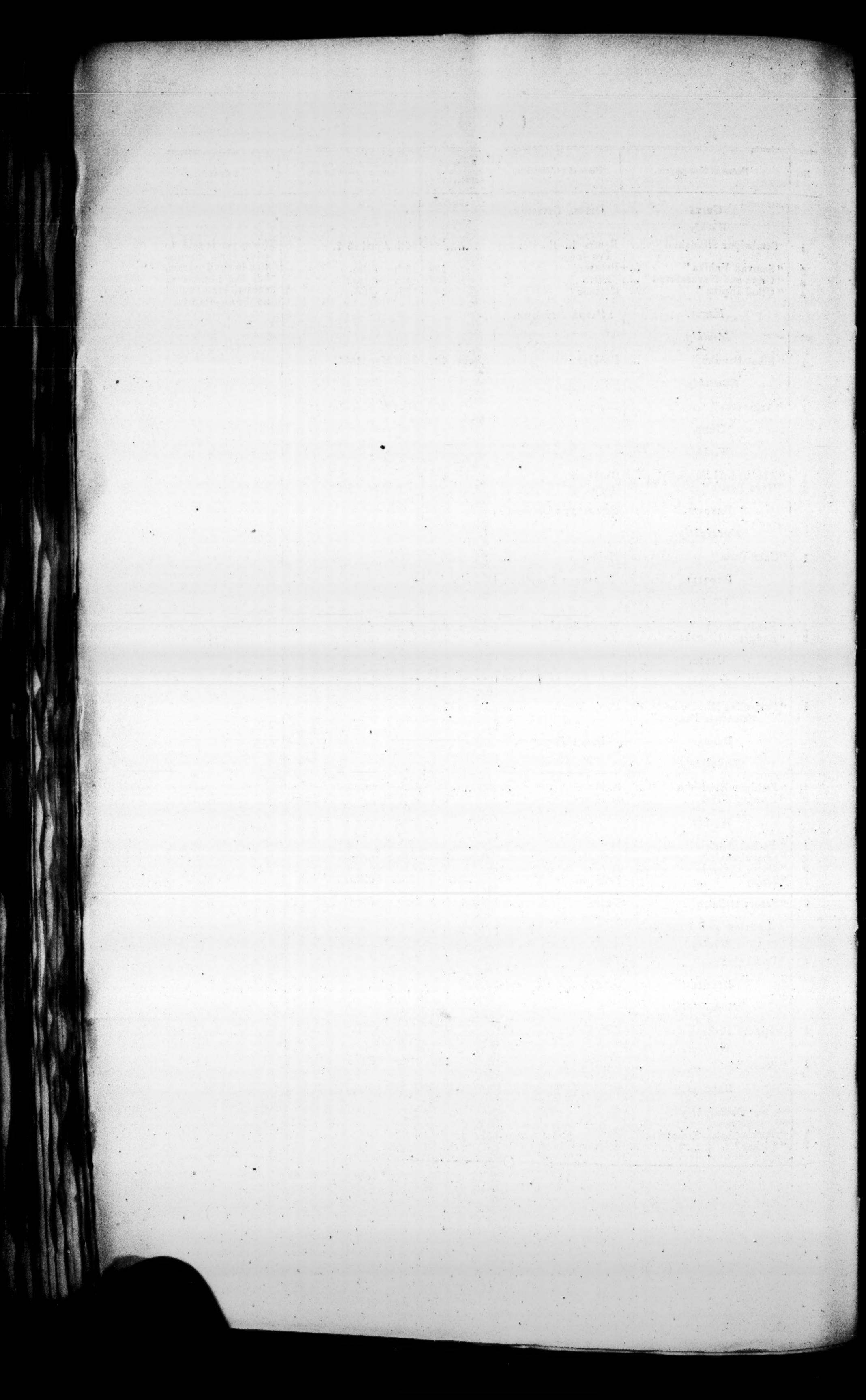
Page.	Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.	
The European Powers in the Greco-Turkish war ...	509
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.	
(a)— Police —	
Thefts in the Kalihati thana in the Mymensingh district ...	ib
Causes of recrudescence of theft and dacoity in the country ...	ib
Cooly-recruiting abuses ...	ib
A new disease in a village in Nadia ...	ib
A grievance of Goalpara boatmen ...	ib
Use of a dangerous weapon in Barisal ...	ib
Prohibition of cow-killing in Ghatal, in the Midnapore district ...	ib
Inspector Yussubuddin of the Kumartuli thana, Calcutta ...	ib
(b)— Working of the Courts —	
Court matters in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district ...	511
The amla of the first munsifi of Bhanga, in the Faridpur district ...	ib
A punkha-cooly case ...	ib
Mr. Radice at Monghyr ...	ib
The Hooghly Road Cess Office ...	ib
(c)— Jails —	
Release of prisoners on the occasion of the Jubilee	ib
The Report on the Jail Administration in Bengal, 1896-97 ...	512
(d)— Education —	
The constitution of the Central Text-book Committee	
The Dacca Saraswat Samaj ...	ib
Delay in publishing the lists of scholarship-holders	
The proposed establishment of a medical school in Assam ...	ib
(e)— Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration —	
A prosecution by the Chittagong District Board ...	513
(f)— Questions affecting the land —	
The question of the establishment of colonies in Assam ...	ib
(g)— Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation —	
Sale of tickets at the Sealdah station ...	514
The officers of the Assam-Bengal Railway ...	ib
(h)— General —	
The Katihadi Sub-Registry Office	...
The Sub-Registrar of Bankura	...
The Sub-Registrar of Amta	...
III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Nil.	
IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The prayer of the Manipur chiefs ...	ib
The Arms Act in Baroda ...	ib
The amalgamation of Jhalwar with Kota	515
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Reports of scarcity ...	ib
Distress in the Bankura district ...	ib
Distress in a village in the Burdwan district ...	ib
Distress in the Kandi subdivision of the Murshidabad district ...	ib
Murder and suicide under starvation in the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district ...	ib
Famine subscriptions ...	ib
Statements of famine relief ...	ib
Distress in the Kushtia subdivision in the Nadia district ...	ib
Reports of food and water scarcity ...	517
Distress in the Faridpur district ...	518
Distress in the Chittagong district ...	ib
Distress in a village in the Nadia district ...	519
Distress in Bengal ...	ib
Famine in the Faridpur district ...	ib
Famine at Panihati near Calcutta ...	ib
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
The Congress in London ...	ib
A return for Indian loyalty on the occasion of the Jubilee ...	ib
India's Jubilee offering to the Queen ...	ib
The native poor of Calcutta during the Jubilee ...	ib
The Bangavasi on the cow-killing question ...	ib
The Mihir-o-Sudhakar's Jubilee Address to the Queen ...	ib
The Queen's duty in the Diamond Jubilee ...	ib
The Natore Conference ...	ib
Mr. Cotton's magnanimity ...	ib
URIA PAPERS.	
Postponement of land revenue on account of distress in Orissa ...	ib
A law class in Assam ...	ib
A permanent settlement in Orissa ...	ib
Christian proselytisation in famine ...	ib
ASSAM PAPERS.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	12th June, 1897.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto	.....	10th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	15th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	11th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	12th ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	9th and 16th June, 1897.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	11th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	12th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	14th ditto.	
10	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	12th ditto.	
11	"Vikrampur" ...	Ditto	200		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	300	12th, 14th and 16th to 18th June, 1897.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	10th and 13th to 17th June, 1897.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,132	14th, 17th and 18th June, 1897.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200	9th to 12th and 14th to 17th June, 1897.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	9th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 15th June 1897.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	2,000	10th June, 1897.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	14th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hubbul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500		
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta	310	10th ditto.	
2	"General and Gauhariesfi"	Ditto	330		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
"Ulubaria Darpan" ...					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500	8th June, 1897.	
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	250	8th ditto.	
3	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	620	13th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,280	11th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Presidency Division.</i>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	696	9th ditto.	
2	"Murahidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	300		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603		

This paper is neither regularly published nor regularly issued.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	14th April 1897.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190	15th ditto.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309	14th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480	17th ditto.	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	About 600	20th May, 1897.	
	<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinsapur	1,000	9th and 12th June, 1897.	
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400	7th June, 1897.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	BHAGALPUR DIVISION.			
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda	.....	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHY DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	243	9th ditto	
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	10th ditto	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	700		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur	.....	13th June, 1897.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	315	28th May and 12th June, 1897.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	.....	4th June, 1897.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	7th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	13th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur	.....	11th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	About 500	12th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	500	14th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla	900		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120	11th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" ...	Sylhet	.....	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar	.....	



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE Bangavasi of the 12th June is surprised that the European Powers are trying their best not to allow Turkey to reap the advantages of her victory. England, France and Italy have made up their mind not to allow Turkey

The European Powers in the Greco-Turkish war.
to establish her power in Thessaly. This is really very strange. In the Franco-German war France had to cede territories to Germany, and in the Russo-Turkish war Russia's victory led to the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. Why refuse to give the victor his due in the Graeco-Turkish war? It is not to be expected that Greece and Turkey will, under the present circumstances, enter into a lasting peace. But let Turkey and Greece alone. All that the Indian public want is that England should maintain her prestige intact, and should not turn inimical to Turkey through the machinations of Russia and Germany.

BANGAVASI,
June 12th, 1897.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 7th June complains that thefts are frequently taking place at Majhhata,

Thefts in the Kalihat thana in Joair, Sitalpur, and other villages within the Kalihat thana. A few days ago thieves entered into a house at Majhhata and carried away almost everything. The police has been informed of the theft, but no investigation is likely to take place. The village police seldom make their appearance, except at pay time.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 7th, 1897.

3. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 10th June ascribes the recrudescence of theft and dacoity—(1) to the prevailing distress, (2)

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1897.

Causes of recrudescence of theft and dacoity in the country. (3) to the disarming and consequent enervation of the people. Hunger drives a man mad, and there is no crime which a hungry man cannot do. The police is growing idle, indolent and corrupt, and gives the people no protection. The people themselves have become weak and effeminate, and fall easy and helpless victims to armed dacoits.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June says that a very large number of ignorant people are decoyed by cooly-recruiters.

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

Cooly-recruiting abuses. A letter has been received by this paper in which one Mahes Chaudhari, of Garbeta, in the Midnapore district, complains to his zamindar that he has been decoyed to Assam by cooly-recruiters.

HITAVADI.

5. A correspondent of the same paper says that during the last five months three persons in a *jelia* (fisherman) family, and two persons in a Brahmin family in the village of Khemiddiara, in the Nadia district, have died of a disease, the symptoms of which are as follows:—There are no premonitory symptoms, and the patient is suddenly overcome with drowsiness and feels pain all over his body. He complains of a slight pain in his throat, and is very restless on account of a burning sensation all over the body. After five or six hours he complains that his eyelids are swollen, though no swelling is visible there. After three or four hours more there is great difficulty of breathing, which is relieved in an hour or two, when the patient sinks into a coma. There is no fever, swelling of glands, or purging or vomiting. The urine becomes scanty and reddish.

SAMAY,
June 11th, 1897.

6. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 11th June complains that the A grievance of Goalpara boat. Subdivisional Officer of Goalpara, in Assam, has issued a notice, forbidding boatmen to moor their boats in the harbour near Goalpara in Assam. The former Subdivisional Officer sometime ago issued a similar notice, but it was withdrawn by the Deputy Commissioner of Dhubri. The notice in question has proved a source of great hardship and inconvenience to native boatmen and traders, it being quite unsafe to moor boats in any other part of the river. Many boats, moored outside this harbour, have been wrecked. It is to be hoped that the Deputy Commissioner will again have the notice withdrawn.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
June 12th, 1897.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 12th, 1897.

7. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 12th June complains that *koch*, a kind of Use of a dangerous weapon in dangerous instrument with which fish are killed, is Barisal. also used by the *badmashes* of Barisal in inflicting bodily injuries on innocent people. The attention of the police authorities should be drawn to this.

8. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 12th June complains Prohibition of cow-killing in that the District Magistrate of Midnapore prohibited Ghatal, in the Midnapore district. cow-killing this year at Ghatal on the occasion of the Bakr-Id festival at the suggestion of the Subdivisional Officer. Last year the Hindus mustered strong to prevent cow-killing, but the then Subdivisional Officer allowed the Musalmans to kill cows under police protection. This year, too, the Hindus, as is their wont, objected to cow-killing, and the Musalmans applied to the District Magistrate for police protection. The District Magistrate referred the question to the Subdivisional Officer of Ghatal, who submitted the following opinion:—

"The mere fact of cows not having been slaughtered in a village before may not be a sufficient reason why cows will never be slaughtered there, if it can be done without wounding the feelings of the Hindus. The petitioner might not have had the means to slaughter cows before or had not the inclination to do it. Men's mind and circumstances always change, and no restriction ought to be put to his performing his religious rights and ceremonies, so long as a man can perform them without insulting his neighbours. If this be a correct view of the case, the petitioner may be permitted to slaughter cows on the occasion of the Bakr-Id under the following restrictions—(a) He must have a good and substantial enclosure round the mosque; (b) he must not parade the animals along the main road of the village, which is mainly frequented by the Hindus all day; (c) he must keep the animals within his enclosure from the time he brings them to his house till they are slaughtered, and (d) he must not distribute the beef among his co-religionists openly."

The Deputy Magistrate concluded as follows:—

"Since the practice of slaughtering cows at the mosque is not clearly established, an alternative course is to refer the petitioner to the civil court to establish his right there, he being prohibited from slaughtering kine till an order from the civil court is obtained."

A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* newspaper praises Mr. Bright, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, for prohibiting cow-slaughter in Ghatal, and waxes eloquent over his abilities. Mr. Bright, however, is notorious for his inefficiency. Murders, dacoities and daring thefts have been committed in Midnapore during his time without being detected.

9. The *Hitaishi* of the 15th June publishes the following letter:—

CORRESPONDENCE.

Inspector Yussubuddin of the Kumartuli thana, Calcutta.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of his correspondents.]

INSPECTOR YUSSUBUDDIN.

[To THE EDITOR OF THE " HITAISHI."]

SIR,—*Apropos* of the agitation going on in the columns of your esteemed journal regarding the strange and objectionable conduct of Inspector Yussubuddin, quite unbecoming of a police officer holding a responsible post, I beg to relate here an incident which would throw light, both on his unique sense of duty and the unparalleled nature of his dealings towards gentlemen.

On the 7th February last, at about 5 P.M., a gentleman, named Makhan Lal Ghosh, was speaking to another gentleman in front of the Kumartuli thana. A constable (No. 38 of the thana) insulted the gentlemen without any cause whatever. They thereupon complained to Mr. Yussubuddin, but he refused altogether to take up the case. A day or two after, the same case was heard before the Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta. The constable was fined Rs. 5, and Mr. Yussubuddin was called upon to give explanation for refusing to take up the case. It is true that Mr. Yussubuddin is in the habit of refusing to take up cases that are brought to him. I can produce evidence that the Inspector declined to take up the above case in a very haughty manner, using indecent and abusive language so characteristic of him.

Yours, &c.,
JOTINDRA KRISHNA MULLICK.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

10. The *Sanjay* of the 11th June complains of the paucity of Magistrates

Court matters in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district. One first class Magistrate is not enough for so large a subdivision. The Bench Magistrates

of the Gopalganj thana are very dilatory in disposing of cases. They should not be allowed to take cognisance of cases first hand, but should only try cases sent to them for disposal. The registration work of Kotalipur thana should be transacted in Madaripur, and not in Gopalganj as at present.

11. The same paper complains of the conduct of the amla of the first

The amla of the first munsifi of Bhanga, in the Faridpur district. They are in the habit of taking out documents from the records of suits after the latter have been disposed

of and filing them in the sarishtada. The documents are not sent up with the records to the higher courts. Sometimes the documents are lost by them, and the parties concerned are put to additional expense. A few instances may be cited. In suit number 406 of 1894, the document filed with the petition was lost, and was not sent up to the appellate court along with the record. In suit number 344 of 1894, the document was taken off the record and filed separately. This practice is against both law and procedure, and the erring amla should be taken to task for it. The sarishtadar is not a strong man, and does not keep proper watch over the amla. The present first munsif, however, is doing his best to put down the evil.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June refers to the case of Mr. S. B. Bendel,

A punkha-cooly case. who gave a punkha-cooly a slap on the face for not pulling the punkha to his satisfaction, and is surprised that Mr. Abdul Kader, Deputy Magistrate of Alipur, who tried the case,

should have thought that the slapping was perfectly justifiable under the provocation. But what would the Deputy Magistrate have said if a punkha-cooly had given a *sahib* a slap on the face for abusing him? There can be no doubt that the cooly would have been sentenced to imprisonment.

13. The same paper says that Mr. Radice is carrying matters with a high-

Mr. Radice at Monghyr. hand at Monghyr. Finding a peon of the local Subordinate Judge walking the streets with his umbrella open, Mr. Radice walked up to him and said: "Svar ki bachchha, shut your umbrella." The peon did as he was bid. Mr. Radice then said:—"How is it that you have not yet salaamed me?" The peon made his obeisance and Mr. Radice went away. Finding the coast clear, the peon again opened his umbrella, but Mr. Radice, who was still watching him from a distance, came back and ordered the peon to appear in his court. The peon did not obey the order. Mr. Radice then wrote to the Subordinate Judge requesting him to fine the peon half a month's pay, and did not desist till the Subordinate Judge pointed out to him that it was no offence under the law to omit to *salaam* a *sahib* or to walk with an umbrella open.

14. A correspondent of the same paper complains of great irregularities

The Hooghly Road Cess Office. in the Hooghly Road Cess Office, and says that the cess of tauzi No. "5 + 719" for 1896 has been exacted twice in spite of protests and the production of receipt, and a notice for its payment has been issued for a third time!

(c)—Jails.

15. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June recommends that no distinction

Release of prisoners on the occasion of the Jubilee. should be made of offences in releasing prisoners on the occasion of the Jubilee, and that every prisoner who has behaved well in jail should be released. Even if all prisoners cannot be released, all should have their sentence remitted by two months for every year of their sentence.

Some say that the release of a large number of prisoners at this time of dire distress will lead to an increase of thefts. But most prisoners have relatives who, if they can feed themselves, will also be able to feed them, and what does the addition of a few thousands of people to a population of 300 millions signify? Those prisoners who have no means of subsistence will commit

SANJAY,
June 11th, 1897.

SANJAY.

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

crimes whenever they are released, and why not as well release them on this auspicious occasion as at any later time?

DACCA PRakash,
June 13th, 1897.

The Report on the Jail Adminis-
tration in Bengal, 1896-97.

16. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 13th June has the following on the Report on the Jail Adminstration in Bengal, 1896-97:—

We learn from a perusal of the last report on the jail administration in Bengal that of the jail population 56 per cent. were Hindus, 39.53 per cent. Musalmans, 1.08 per cent. Christians, and .3 per cent. Buddhists. Of the Indian population, however, 65.49 per cent. are Hindus, 33.9 per cent. Musalmans, .27 per cent. Christians, and .28 per cent. Buddhists. It is thus quite clear that the Hindu jail population is 9.5 per cent. less and the Musalman jail population, 6 per cent. more than what it ought to have been. The Christian jail population is four times what it ought to have been. In Bengal Hindus are almost twice as numerous as Musalmans and 237 times as numerous as Christians. If Hindus had been as criminally disposed as Musalmans, the Hindu jail population would have been more than twice the existing number. If they had been as criminally disposed as Christians, the Hindu jail population would have been 4×237 times as numerous as it is at present. How sinful is Christian society is Bengal! It is a pity that a senseless attempt is being made to convert Hindus to Christianity. We almost shudder to think of the future of those Hindus who have become Christians under false hope or delusion. Christians, however, are far less frequently and far more lightly punished than Hindus or Musalmans. A Christian would be only fined Rs. 100 for an offence for which a Hindu or a Musalman would be hanged. As between Christians and non-Christians, the former are very rarely punished. If Christian offenders had been punished in such cases, the Christian jail population would have been much larger. In fact, the Government is doing wrong by facilitating evangelisation in India. It would go hard against the people as well as the Government if the whole Indian population became Christian.

The jail population last year showed an increase of 2,000. This increase is ascribed to the prevailing distress. The Government, however, has not recognised the existence of famine in Faridpur and Backergunge. Jail mortality was comparatively small, but the rate of mortality was still 28.7 per thousand, even after the release of the old and the infirm. If these people had not been in jail, jail mortality would not have been higher than 7 or 8 per thousand.

(d)—Education.

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1897.

The constitution of the Central
Text-Book Committee.

17. The *Sahachar* of the 9th June says that the Central Text-Book Committee is doing good work, for which all Bengal is grateful to it. But its constitution is yet far from being perfect. Members are being brought to it from obscure places, but, strange to say, the Principal of the Sanskrit College has yet no place on it. It is to be hoped that the Director of Public Instruction will remedy this oversight.

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

The Dacca Saraswat Samaj.

members are at an end.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June says that Government will do well to stop its annual grant of Rs. 500 to the Dacca Saraswat Samaj till the dissensions among its members are at an end.

SANJIVANI,
June 12th, 1897.

Delay in publishing the lists of
scholarship-holders.

19. The *Sanjivani* of the 12th June complains of delay in publishing the lists of senior and junior scholarship-holders. Dr. Martin is enjoying himself on the summits of Darjeeling, but the poor students are in great anxiety. Most of them cannot make up their minds as to the school to which they should get themselves admitted. It is to be hoped that the lists will be published without further delay.

SANJIVANI.

The proposed establishment of a
medical school in Assam.

he has been appointed to rule.

20. The same paper is glad to understand that Mr. Cotton is going to establish a medical school in Assam. The new Chief Commissioner is trying his best to increase the material prosperity of the province over which

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

21. Referring to the case of Abdul Latif, lately dismissed by the Joint-Magistrate of Chittagong, the *Sansodhini* of the 11th

A prosecution by the Chittagong District Board. June observes that the prosecution was based on mere suspicion, and was the making of the Chairman

and the Head-Clerk of the District Board. On the 9th March the District Magistrate wrote to the Joint-Magistrate as follows:—"I am sending you this file by the District Board Head-Clerk. Please go through the papers with him, and let me know whether a prosecution is possible. It seems to me that there was a conspiracy to defraud."

In reply to this letter the Joint-Magistrate observed that by presenting his petition of 28th November 1897 to the District Engineer, Abdul Latif attempted to prevent the distribution of certain money, according to law, among his creditors. This would constitute an offence if the petition were made fraudulently or dishonestly. No prosecution would stand without proving that the petition was false, i.e., Amrita Lal did not advance money to Abdul Latif. Amrita Lal should, therefore, be examined before any case was instituted.

Upon this, the District Magistrate ordered the Deputy Magistrate to "make the inquiry suggested by the Joint-Magistrate" and take "cognisance of the case and deal with it according to law" if any fraud had been committed.

It is quite clear from the above that there was no complainant in the case under notice, and that the prosecution was based on mere suspicion of fraud. The deposition of the Deputy Magistrate, the Vice-Chairman and the Head-clerk was mysterious. The Chairman and the Head-Clerk seem to be at the root of the case. The Vice-Chairman and the Government Pleader were not in the least connected with the affair. It was solely at the instigation of the Head-Clerk that the case was instituted through the Magistrate.

The District Board has given unmistakable proofs of mismanagement in connection with the case. The Joint-Magistrate unfavourably criticises the Head-Clerk's conduct, and it should be looked into. A Committee should also be appointed to inquire into the following questions:—

- (1) Who is to be responsible for the costs of the case? If damages are claimed, who is to pay them?
- (2) Why was the case instituted? Is there any mystery in the affair?

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

22. The *Sahachar* of the 9th June has the following:—

The question of the establishment of colonies in Assam. Overpopulation is always attended with distress, for the agricultural produce of overpopulated

countries is not sufficient for their inhabitants. Nor can the people of such a country earn money enough by other pursuits. The only remedy for this evil, suggested by Political Economists, is the drawing off of surplus population by the establishment of colonies. Famine is now frequently taking place in this country, but one cause of these visitations will be removed if the population of the country can be decreased. The soil of Assam is very fertile, and it is yet but sparsely peopled. Many will therefore do well to emigrate from congested provinces like Bihar to Assam or Burma. From the reply given by Mr. Woodburn to the Maharaja of Darbhanga's interpellation on the subject, it would appear that Government has had long in its mind the project of establishing colonies in Assam. Much land is still lying waste in that province, and though the cost of bringing such land under cultivation, will require a great outlay there can be no doubt that the produce will greatly exceed the outlay. If, therefore, the rich and philanthropic zamindars of Bengal acquire large tracts of waste land in Assam, many distressed Bengali raiyats may be induced to settle there.

Three things are needed for the establishment of colonies in Assam on a large scale:—(1) facilities of communication; (2) a permanent settlement with the zamindars, and (3) the improvement of the health of the province. Government is already trying its best to establish railway communication between Bengal and Assam. As for the second, we invite Government's special attention to it, for if a permanent settlement is made, many planters and zamindars will be induced to make an outlay on the reclamation of waste lands. Indeed, the

SANSODHINI,
June 11th, 1897.

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1897.

Maharaja of Darbhanga has given a broad hint that he will acquire large tracts of waste land in Assam if such a settlement is made. As for the third, we are inclined to think that the health of Assam will improve with the clearing of the province and Government can easily ascertain the best means of improving its health. We fully hope that a wise, experienced and benevolent officer like Mr. Cotton will give his best support to the Maharaja of Darbhanga's proposal.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

HITAVADI.

23. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June complains that the order for selling tickets at all hours of the day at the Sealdah station is not practically observed there.

24. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the Station Master of Sitakunda oppresses people in various ways. The officers of the Assam-Bengal Railway. He is very haughty and peevish. Even when not otherwise engaged, he does not sell tickets to passengers earlier than the usual time. Whoever remonstrates with him is abused. He beat a Musalman with his shoe for entering a goods carriage without his permission.

The Editor observes that many officers of the Assam-Bengal Railway are very haughty and meanminded. On the 27th May last, one Navin Chakravati travelled from Laksam to Chandpur with a ticket for Bhingra. He offered to pay the excess fare from Bhingra to Chandpur, but the whole fare from Laksam to Chandpur was exacted from him.

(h)—*General.*

CHARU MIHIR,
June 7th, 1897.

25. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 7th June complains that people can not get their deeds registered at the Katihadi Sub-Registry Office. Katihadi Sub-Registry Office without bribing the clerk. They are also pestered by the peon for buksash. The Sub-Registrar is requested to attend to the matter.

BANKURA DARPARAN,
June 8th, 1897.

26. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 8th June complains of dilatoriness on the part of the Sub-Registrar of Bankura in registering documents presented to him. He is in the habit of taking up only a limited number of documents, and postponing the registration of the remaining ones. This dilatoriness causes mufassal people great hardship, inconvenience and expense.

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

27. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 11th June complains that the oppressions by the Sub-Registrar of Amta have increased since they were noticed in this paper. People cannot now get documents registered in less than a week. The Registrar abuses parties as much as ever.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 10th, 1897.

28. The *Bharat Mitra* publishes a Hindi translation of the letter of Kulachandra Dhwaja Singh and Senapati Anga Singh, praying that they may be granted permission to live with their family in a sacred place in India. The Manipur chiefs do not pray for honour or wealth, for power or position, and the Government ought to grant their humble request, and make them happy on this auspicious occasion when everybody will rejoice, and even hardened criminals will be released and allowed to return to their families.

SANJIVANI,
June 12th, 1897.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 12th June complains that the Arms Act is going to be enforced in Baroda at the bidding of the Political Agent. The British Government has well-nigh crushed out the vitality of the people of British India by disarming them, and has made them a helpless prey to dacoits and wild animals. Is the same thing going to be done in the Native States? The Native Chiefs are in mortal dread of the Political Agents, and have not the heart to protest against the introduction of the Arms Act into their States.

30. The same paper observes that the Indian public have been overtaken by sorrow in the midst of their rejoicing on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee on hearing that Jhalwar is going to be amalgamated with Kota, and that Zalim Singh has no hope of being re-installed.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

31. The *Charu Mihir* of the 7th June publishes the following reports of scarcity:—

Reports of scarcity.

Tangail.—Relief operations are being conducted in an unsatisfactory manner. Only Rs. 3,000 has been collected in the shape of subscriptions, and Rs. 500 has been procured as an allotment from the district head-quarters. But so many as 30 circles have been opened for the distribution of this petty sum. All the circle officers, excepting that of Alisakanda, have received sums not exceeding Rs. 100, and their applications for more money are not being responded to. The sum given to the circle officer of Alisakanda is not also sufficient for the requirements of his circle. The Subdivisional Officer's relief policy is really of a surprising nature.

Bhattabari, Gopalpur thana.—The following persons are on the point of death from starvation:—

Chhamer Shaikh of Bagil; family 10; amount of relief required Rs. 30.
Mahor Shaikh of Bhattabari; family 3; amount of relief required Rs. 20.
Gachh Mali; family 7; amount of relief required Rs. 40.
Osman Shaikh of Bagil; family 5; amount of relief required Rs. 48.
Alabux of the same village; family 4; amount of relief required Rs. 20.
Miyan Jan Shaikh of the same village; family 2; amount of relief required Rs. 15.

Kalimuddi of the same village; family 9; amount of relief required Rs. 30.
Sahebulla Shaikh of Bhattabari; family 9; amount of relief required Rs. 30.

Amira Mandal of the same village; family 9; amount of relief required Rs. 35.

Ramkumar Maithan of Kolabari; family 7; amount of relief required Rs. 30.

Sivanath Chang of Sangram Simul; family 10; amount of relief required Rs. 40.

Dewanganj.—The distressed people of Islampur, Buxiganj, Saurmara and other villages within this thana are not being helped at all.

Jagannathgarj.—The distress here can no longer be concealed. Two Kayastha lads of 9 and 10, respectively, grandsons of Indramani Dasya, of that village, have deserted their family in the agony of hunger and gone no one knows where. The skeleton-like figures of their mother and grandmother have quite a spectral look.

Nagarbari, Narandia, Daulatpur.—Many are obtaining meals at intervals of two or three days while many others are living on herbs and fruits. Many helpless widows are begging with their children.

32. Correspondents of the *Bankura Darpan* complain of the prevalence of distress in the Bankura district. Acute distress prevails in Saldiha, a village near Bankura town. The starving people of this locality are leaving their homes and going to other villages in search of food and employment. Water scarcity too prevails. The state of things is even worse in Garubari and other villages in the district. Many families are suffering acutely from the distress. The following people are in need of immediate relief:—

1. Kini Harhini: a leper; family of four.
2. Thunti Harhini: maimed and infirm; family of two.
3. Bhairab Sardar: family of nine; verging on starvation.

In Chhatua the middle classes are very badly off. There are many lepers in the village, and people who are old, infirm, and maimed. These people want relief very badly. Rice is selling at nine or ten seers per rupee.

The statistics published in the *Calcutta Gazette* concerning the labourers on relief works in Gangajalbati and Sonamukhi are incorrect. Only one-

SANJIVANI,
June 12th, 1897.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 7th, 1897.

BANKURA DARPAN,
June 6th, 1897.

sixth of the number shown in the *Gazette* are working on the relief-works, or are receiving gratuitous relief. In Bankura town crowds of starving people are seen begging for alms. The District Magistrate is out touring, and is doing his best to relieve the distressed people. It is to be hoped that he will tour through the whole district and will also inquire into the condition of the starving people flocking to the town. The poor middle classes also are suffering very badly.

On the 1st June last a boy applied to the District Engineer for relief on behalf of a starving family in the Upardihi village. The Secretary of the Local Relief Committee sanctioned a grant of Re. 1, but the Treasurer threw away the petition in a pet and refused to pay.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 8th, 1897.

33. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 8th June complains of the prevalence of distress in Baghnapara, a village in the Burdwan district. The authorities, however, are quite

indifferent in the matter, and are taking no measures to relieve the distress of the people. The Subdivisional Officer of Kalna has been granted Rs. 500 for the purpose of relieving the distress in his subdivision. He ought to make an immediate inquiry into the prevailing distress, and help the poor middle classes, who are faring very badly. The middle class people will never publicly beg. The Government knows this very well, and that is why it has taken such a large number of natives into the famine committees. Let the native members rise to a proper sense of their duty, and try their utmost to save the lives of their countrymen.

MURSHIDABAD HITAI-
SHI,
June 9th, 1897.

34. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 9th June says that the distress is becoming severer in certain villages in the Kandi subdivision of the Murshidabad district. Many will probably soon die of starvation. No relief is being afforded by the Relief Committee. There is great want of *aman* seed grain.

The excavation of a tank was commenced at Govindapur within the zamindari of the Nawab of Murshidabad as a relief measure. But as the stringent relief rules could not be complied with, the work was made over to a contractor at a very high rate. The tank came to be filled with water before the mud at its bottom could be removed. The District Magistrate and the Nawab are requested to attend to the matter.

BASUMATI,
June 10th, 1897.

35. The *Basumati* of the 10th June learns from the *Power* newspaper that in a village in the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district, a father put two of his children to death and then he and his wife committed suicide. The whole family was starving several days, but could starve no longer and was driven to this dreadful act. Will not the Subdivisional Officer be responsible for this?

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

36. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June says that many mafassal people who are willing to send small contributions to the Famine Relief Fund, can find no convenient means of doing so. Remittance by money-order is not convenient, because a fee of 2 annas must be paid in remitting even 4 or 8 annas. There can be no doubt that many such small contributions will be received if Government exempts donations for famine relief from money-order fees.

HITAVADI.
HITAVADI.

37. The same paper says the Viceroy has sent statements of famine relief to the Lord Mayor of London, for the information of English subscribers. But have not Indian subscribers, too, a right to know how the money paid by them is being spent? These statements should be published in this country.

38. The same paper writes as follows:—

Distress in the Kushtia subdivi-
sion of the Nadia district.

Eye-witnesses of the distress in the Nadia, Khulna and Pabna districts must be deeply pained at heart. We witnessed the condition of Kushtia with our own eyes the other day. The whole subdivision has a blasted look: the date trees stand with a load of dead leaves on their tops, while bamboo topes have all the appearance of burnt forests. Fields which in other years used to be green with harvest look like deserts. The very grass is withered. There is no paddy in most fields, and where there is, it is fast withering for

want of water. How will the people then take heart? They have no food in their homes, no water in their villages, no hope for the future, and though clinging to life from instinct, can find no means of saving it. They are, therefore, rending the heavens with cries for rice.

But even this dire distress has not brought the authorities to their senses. No one seems to be in the least anxious to relieve the distress in the subdivision.

A correspondent writes to us that there is severe distress at Maliat, Bangalpara, and one or two other villages within the Khoksa thana of the subdivision. The sight of their inhabitants, with skeleton-like figures and sunken eyes, will move even the hardest heart. Some are bed-ridden and some are falling down in exhaustion as they walk. Children are wailing for food. A few days ago some 70 or 80 raiyats who had got nothing to eat for two or three days previously came to Babu Pyarimohan Basu at Maliat, and said that they would die at his house if he did not give them food to eat. The Babu dismissed them with small alms.

39. The same paper publishes the following reports of food and water scarcity :—

Reports of food and water scarcity.

Chandghar, Nadia.—Thanks to Manchester, Bengalies have had nothing to do with cotton-spinning for the last 30 years or so, and yet the authorities have decided that people must spin cotton in order to earn relief. How will people practise an art which they have forgotten? The doles of rice have been reduced from half a seer to a quarter seer. It is the Magistrate's strict order that no one shall obtain relief who has so much as four annas worth of articles in his house. There is great water-scarcity in the village, and water has to be fetched from the river, five miles off.

Noapara, Nadia.—The Daulatpur thana is receiving help, while the Naopara thana is not obtaining any relief. There is a village, one portion of which is under the jurisdiction of the Daulatpur thana, while another is under the jurisdiction of the Naopara thana; but while the former portion is receiving help, the latter is left to shift for itself as it best may. A girl named Kulchhan of Amla Sadarpur has died of starvation. Many in the Fakirpara quarter of Sadarpur are on the point of death from starvation. About 300 distressed people have plundered a field of *tarmuj* (water-melons).

Ramrampur, Mymensingh.—Severe distress. Rice not available even at five or six seers per rupee, and people can hardly obtain meals at intervals of two or three days.

Narayanpur, Burdwan.—There is severe distress owing to failure of crops for two years in succession. More than 100 people will die if not promptly relieved.

Kalia, Jessore.—Coarse rice still selling at Rs. 5 and *balam* at Rs. 5-8 per maund. Poor respectable people are suffering greatly. The water-scarcity has become severer.

Julangi, Murshidabad.—Most people here do not get two meals a day. Many are living on *kilai* and *arhar*. The number of beggars has so greatly increased that alms is difficult to get. The distressed people showed great anxiety to purchase a quantity of burnt and unpalatable rice, *kalai* and *arhar*, which was brought into the village. No one is yet known to have died from starvation, but a great many people are on the point of death from that cause. Rice is selling at Rs. 5-10 and paddy at Rs. 3-4 per maund. There is also great water-scarcity.

Basudevpur, Murshidabad.—Great scarcity of food and water here and in the adjoining villages of Airamari, Beledanga, &c. Paddy is selling at Rs. 3-6 per maund and country *aus* at 4 *hetes* per rupee. One Gaganchandra Saha of Khairmari Bazar is supposed to have hanged himself in the pangs of hunger. Many do not get two meals. Many are living on herbs and fruits. Poor respectable people are suffering in silence.

Mahajanpur, Nadia.—Terrible distress. The poor are living on one meal, and cannot obtain even one meal every day. Many will die if not promptly relieved.

Manikahar, Murshidabad.—Coarse rice is not available every day even at 8 seers per rupee. Many cannot get two meals and are living on herbs and

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

bulbs. Many middle-class people are in great distress. Only Rs. 40 has been granted in the shape of relief. Applications for takavi loans have been rejected. Horrid scenes will be witnessed if relief works are not opened.

The following persons are in great distress :—

- (1) Bipin Kaivarta: family of 7.
- (2) Ranachandra Mandal: family of 5.
- (3) Paban Dom: family of 8.

Chabua, Bankura.—Many are living on one meal in this village as well as in the adjoining villages of Katavani; Gamidhya; Ektarpur; Bahulara; Bhuvanpur; Bhetara; Itapara; Patrihati; Radhamohanpur; Mirsa; Siara; Goswamigram; Kumarband and Herameta. Labourers cannot get even one meal.

Satbaria and Tantibanda, Pabna.—Villages under the jurisdiction of these two post-offices are suffering greatly. Many will die if not promptly relieved.

Khaliskha/i, Khulna.—Great distress here as well as in the villages of Inatpur, Ganespur, Hajrapara, Raghbakti, Kadikati, &c. Babu Gati Krishna Niyogi has, however, reported that there is no distress in these villages. It is hoped that he will make a proper enquiry into the condition of these villages and arrange for their relief.

40. The *Sanjay* of the 11th June complains of the prevalence of distress in the Faridpur district. The pinch is being most keenly felt in Maguradangi, Hazarapara and about 48 others villages in the Pangsa thana. The poor widows are in a helpless condition, and the number of beggars is swelling every day. In the affected villages there are few able to serve on the relief works. They should be granted gratuitous relief. The Subdivisional Officer should make an inquiry into the condition of these villages. The Vice-Chairman of the Faridpur District Board lately paid a visit to these parts, but his inquiry was limited to a few villages near his house. Most of the distressed people in these parts belong to the upper classes. The distribution of relief was not satisfactory. Most of the deserving got nothing and many who did not deserve relief got it.

The following people are in great distress in Maguradangi, a village in the same district :—

- (1) Chinta Bewa: a widow of 30 or 32; diseased and infirm; family of 3; debt Rs. 4.
- (2) Titu Bewa: a widow of 40 or 42; starving with a child.
- (3) Jhapa Bewa: a widow of 30 or 32; starving with a daughter.
- (4) Atal Bewa: an old blind widow; homeless and helpless.
- (5) Kulsum Bewa: a widow of 40 or 45; relief immediately wanted.
- (6) Basu Bibi; aged 50 or 60.
- (7) Rahaman Mia: aged 40 or 45; family of five; on the verge of starvation. This family deserves help from Lord Stanley's Fund.
- (8) Tota Bewa: aged about 30; family of four.

Thanks to Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the District Magistrate of Faridpur, *takavi* loans to the extent of Rs. 13,000 have been sanctioned. The best relief works for the district would be the digging of tanks and the making of roads.

41. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 11th June complains of the prevalence of distress in the Chittagong district. Distress in the Chittagong district. The gaunt spectre of famine is stalking from one village to another, and the famine-stricken are flocking to the relief circles. The relief authorities, however, are turning away most of them, and the Government has not yet declared the Chittagong district an affected area. What is the famine fund for if it is not to be utilised in relieving distressed people? The official report that rice is selling at ten seers per rupee is not correct. In only a few places rice is selling at *kanchi* ten seers (=pucc's eight seers or eight seers and-a-half) per rupee. It is Burma rice which is chiefly being sold in the market. Husking of rice has been given up. The number of beggars is swelling, but alms-giving is being discontinued. Mortality has also increased, and much of this increase is to be ascribed to starvation or diseases brought on by starvation. The authorities, however, are trying to explain away the rise in the mortality by ascribing it to cholera and other epidemics.

Six or seven families of weavers are starving in Barkal, a village under the jurisdiction of the Patia relief circle. A family in Kulail Danga is also in the same condition, and it is a regret that, depending solely on the information given by a boy, the relief officer has refused to grant it any help.

42. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 11th June complains of the prevalence distress in Mahajanpur, a village in the Nadia district. Most people are starving, and the middle classes are in great distress.

Distress in a village in the Nadia district.
43. Correspondents of the *Sanjivani* of the 12th June complain of the prevalence of distress throughout Bengal :—

Distress in Bengal.

The *Sonthal Parganas*.—Acute distress prevails in Deoghar in the Sonthal Parganas district. The poor peasants are helpless, and the middle classes who were once well off, are now begging for food. The mother is forsaking her child, the husband his wife, and the son his helpless parents. In fact famine is raging in the Sonthal Parganas, but the Government is blind to the prevailing distress, and will not recognise its existence. The people of the Sonthal Parganas are quite illiterate, and cannot make themselves heard. The Deputy Commissioner lately paid a visit to the locality, but its effect seems to be the partial stopping of the grant of relief to the old and infirm by the Central Relief Committee. While the hungry people are being driven away, the European inspecting officers are entertaining themselves with *nautches* and music.

Howrah.—Acute distress prevails in Bagnan in the Howrah district. Seventy *per cent.* of people among the lower classes are not getting two meals a day. Four or five respectable middle-class families are on the verge of starvation. The prevailing distress is principally due to the silting up of the canal passing through Chandrapur, Barbaria and other villages. The dredging of this canal is likely to improve the condition of about 40 villages and make agriculture prosper in them.

Jalpaiguri.—Distress prevails in most parts of this district. People are living on wild roots and plants. Rupees 3,000 has accumulated in the local famine fund, but it does not appear that it will be utilised in helping the needy.

Nadia.—Distress prevails in Mahajanpur in the Nadia district. Gaur Chandra Acharyya, an orphan of 12, with a family of 6 to maintain, is in great distress. The whole family is on the verge of starvation. Sitanath Halder with a family of 6 is also on the verge of starvation.

Jessore.—Great distress prevails in Dighalia, a village in the Jessore district. Hundreds have been reduced to skeletons. Theft and robbery are rife. A beggar woman was murdered in a village called Patna for her small stock of rice. The distress is fast thickening.

44. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 13th June complains that famine is being very keenly felt in the Bhusna thana of the Faridpur district. Many have to live on one meal a day, consisting of pulses boiled with a small quantity of rice. Many more are living on arum. The condition of the people of Pangsa is extremely miserable. The local loan office has been of great service to the people of this and other villages in the Faridpur district.

45. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th June complains that famine is raging at Panihati, in the 24-Parganas district. A death from starvation was discovered a few days ago. Importation of rice is falling off.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

46. The *Sahachar* of the 9th June writes as follows:—

The Congress in London. What we humbly beg to represent is that, so long as the English public are not convinced that the object of the Congress is to improve the condition of India by constitutional agitation, so long as the cry of the Congress does not directly reach the foot of Her Imperial Majesty's throne, and so long as old John Bull does not heartily take up its cause, so long the Congress will not be able to effect any real good. We are of opinion that if the Congress holds its sittings in the holy metropolis of England, its object will be soon attained. We, therefore,

SAMAY,
June 11th, 1897.

SANJIVANI,
June 12th, 1897.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
June 13th, 1897.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
June 14th, 1897.

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1897.

earnestly recommend that the next sitting of the Congress be held in London. John Bull is the gentlest and kindest of creatures, and an appeal to him will certainly bear fruit.

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1897.

47. The same paper says that there are festivities all over India on account of the approaching celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. Addresses are pouring in, and there is a gush, as it were, of loyal devotion. But what will Indians receive in return for this loyalty? Will the Queen confer any permanent benefit on her poor Indian children? A numerously-attended meeting of the British Indian Association has prayed for such a benefit. The best benefit that could be conferred would probably be a permanent settlement all over India. Such a settlement will be beneficial alike to raiyats and zamindars. If there had been a permanent settlement in the Central Provinces, those Provinces would not have suffered so greatly from scarcity.

HITAVADI,
June 11th, 1897.

48. The *Hitavadi* of the 11th June has the following :—
It is customary with subjects to make offerings to their sovereign on the occasion of festivities. So long as we had the means we tried to make fitting presents to our Empress mother. We have not gurgled her even the *kohinoor*.

But, Mother, we are sorry that we have nothing to give you today. There is not a handful of rice, a blade of fresh *durva* grass, or a drop of pure water in the land with which to prepare an *argha* (offering) for you. Your emaciated and famine-stricken children are to-day at your door with an offering of withered *durva* grass, moistened (for want of water) with their tears. Gratify them by accepting their worship and by casting a kind look at them at their last moment. They have nothing more to give. If they had rice they would not feel the pangs of hunger; if they had water, their throats would not be parched with thirst; if they had fresh grass in their fields, their cattle would not die for want of fodder. If they had these they would not be so utterly destitute.

Mother, your Indian subjects are very poor. If they have no food they cry to their sovereign and her officers for food; but it never enters into their thoughts to show disrespect to their sovereign because her officers are hard-hearted. Even those pinched by hunger and parched with thirst are selling their very domestic utensils in order to pay the revenue. They are dying in the streets, and cannot yet find it in their hearts to desire the subversion of your authority. Is not this people loyal? Will the Empress deem the tears of such a people an offering of no value?

We can perform no religious rite without fasting. Therefore, though starving on this occasion of our Queen-worship, we do not grumble or complain. Accept then our tribute of tears.

SANJIVANI,
June 12th, 1897.

The native poor of Calcutta during the Jubilee.

49. Referring to the entertainment which is proposed to be given to the poor Europeans and Eurasians on the Jubilee day, the *Sanjivani* of the 12th June complains that no such entertainment will be given to poor natives.

There are rich native gentlemen in the city, any one of whom is in a position to feast the poor of Calcutta. It is a pity that they have no sympathy with their poor countrymen and are making no attempt to make them happy in the midst of universal rejoicing.

MHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 12th, 1897.

The *Bangavasi* on the cow-killing question.

50. A correspondent of the *Mhir-o-Sudhakar* of the 12th June thus comments upon the *Bangavasi*'s article on the cow-killing question (see Report on Native Paper of 29th May 1897, paragraph 59).

The *Bangavasi* writes that the cow is held sacred by every Hindu and is worshipped as a god. It will be wounding his religious susceptibilities to kill the animal. This may be quite true. But has not the Musalman to put up with many Hindu ceremonies and practices which are extremely offensive in his eye? Idol worship, the music in idol worship, and many other Hindu practices are calculated to wound the religious susceptibilities of the Musalman. The killing and eating of pigs by low class Hindus is an abomination in Musalman eyes. But has the Musalman shown any signs of impatience at all this? Has he not patiently put up with Hindu prejudices and practices? This being the case, should not the Hindu also

show forbearance towards the Musalmans and put up with those Musalman ceremonies and practices which may appear offensive to him? *Korbani* is held sacred by Musalmans. Should not the Hindu put up with this Musalman practice? If the killing of cows is an offence against the Hindu religion, how did that religion exist when the Aryans themselves ate beef?

The writer has shown a lamentable ignorance of the Musalman religion by saying that the killing of cows is not enjoined in the Musalman scriptures, and was prohibited in India by some of the Mogul Emperors. Musalmans versed in their scriptures have never said that cow-killing is not obligatory on Musalmans. It is strange that a Hindu should pretend to know better than these *Alems*. As for the prohibition of cow-killing by Akbar and other Mogul Emperors, it is certainly a fiction of the writer's brain.

51. The same paper has the following:—

The Mihir-o-Sudhakar's Jubilee A few days more, and that auspicious day, the day of the Diamond Jubilee, will come. The address to the Queen. hearts of the loyal Indian Musalmans are already heaving with joy, and the prevailing distress—the famine and the pestilence—cannot stand in the way of their rejoicing. We are going to worship our mother with our hearts' gratitude and reverence, and on such an occasion prosperity and adversity are all the same to us.

Come, Mother, Empress of India, mistress of a world-wide empire stretching far to the seas, Queen of Britain and the absolute ruler of the destinies of India, come. Take your seat in our loyal hearts, so that we may adorn your feet with flowers of reverence, pour on you the sacred water of gratitude and love, encircle your head with the crown of filial affection, kneel down at your feet and kiss the skirts of your garment.

Mistress of the seas, whose head is adorned with the effulgence of the *Kohinoor*, and who rules the destinies of India, once look into the hearts of your loyal Indian subjects and see what treasures lie there. Overwhelmed as they are with misery and grief, almost reduced as they are to starvation, the Indian people still cherish in the recesses of their hearts reverence and gratitude, love and affection for their Queen-Empress far surpassing the sentiments which are entertained for her by the people of Great Britain. If India had not this year been afflicted with calamities, she would have, on this auspicious occasion, been illuminated on a splendid scale and would have resounded with mirth and music, and her children in their festive clothes would have walked the streets, flag in hand, to celebrate the auspicious event. We have been denied this happiness in this year of distress, but may God give to us to celebrate the hundredth year of your reign. Ruler of Albion, it is proposed to erect statues in your honour in towns and cities. But, mother, where is the need of statues when your image in all its glory and effulgence, is enshrined in every Hindu and Musalman heart?

You are now the absolute and indisputable Sovereign of India—a country in which once reigned Rama and Judhishthira, Bhima and Arjuna, which boasts of the rule of the great and glorious Prithviraj, and which, later on, came under the sway of great Mogul Emperors—Akbar and Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Alamgir. Like a mother you are protecting your subjects, like hope incarnate you have inspired them with confidence. Glory to you! Glory to your rule!

Mother, living, as we do, under your benign rule, we are not afraid of the anger and displeasure of your white children. Oppressed by them, we appeal to your throne for justice and protection. It is our greatest pride that the sun never sets on the empire of our Queen-Empress, that her prowess is dreaded by all other European Powers, and that the *Kohinoor*, that priceless Indian gem, adorns her crown.

Mother, forgive our faults. But what faults can be there on the part of the child in the eye of the mother? It is the law of nature that the weakest child is also the dearest. What, then, need we fear? Your hopeful assurance, your message of mercy, is still ringing in our ears.

May He who has made this world, who makes the stars and the planets move in their orbits, who has, in His infinite mercy, created fountains in the sides of the mountains and has given fertility to the soil, who makes trees bear fruits, rivers flow and clouds pour down rain—may He who has given

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 12th, 1897.

us an ideal ruler like you, increase tenfold your prowess and prosperity and give you many, many more years of life.

Come, then, Hindus and Musalmans, let us forget our petty jealousies, quarrels and differences, and as children of one and the same mother worship our Queen-Empress on this auspicious occasion.

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 14th, 1897.

52. The people, observes the *Dacca Gazette* of the 14th June, are trying their best to commemorate the sixtieth year of the reign of the Queen-Empress. Will not the Government, on its part, do something to commemorate

The Queen's duty in the Diamond Jubilee.
it? Give and take is the principle which rules the ways of the world, and the Sovereign is not above this principle. It is said that the Queen-Empress gives ten times as much as she gets. The Indian people hope that they will not be disappointed. What have they not done for their Queen? What cannot the Queen do for them?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,
June 15th, 1897.

53. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th June has the following about the Natore Conference:—

The Natore Conference.
The Conference has cost Rs. 15,000, and this, in spite of the prevailing distress. Maharaja Jagadindranath invited some of the distinguished delegates to his house, and the young Raja of Dighapatia followed suit. The guests were entertained in a right royal fashion. This invidious distinction, however, has offended many delegates. But, vain complaint! Everybody cannot be honoured with the privilege of being the guest of a Maharaja. When Rs. 15,000 have been spent, the Conference has not been all in vain, especially as speeches on the prevailing distress have been made. The Conference is over, and Rani Bhawani's city has been sanctified by its sittings.

Maharaja Jagadindranath made a speech in English and Raja Sasisekharwar interpreted it in Bengali. This will make the English public think that the Maharaja does not know Bengali. The Resolution regarding the famine found fault with the Government, and Raja Sasisekharwar objected to it. He highly eulogised the Magistrates and Commissioners, and spoke of a Commissioner who actually shed tears at seeing the distress. The Raja's amendment, however, was rejected on the motion of Babu Rabindra Nath Tagore. The Raja observed that it was anxiety caused by famine that had broken down the health of the Lieutenant-Governor. It was to this part of the amendment that the strongest objection was made by the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and other delegates.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,
June 16th, 1897.

54. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th June observes that there is a park in Shillong, in Assam, which was so long closed to natives. Lately, the students of the local school prayed to the new Chief Commissioner for permission to go to the park. Mr. Cotton granted their prayer, and himself accompanied them to the park. The gatekeeper at first refused to admit the students, but he was thunderstruck when he saw the Chief Commissioner himself taking the students into the park. Will the Anglo-Indian Community of Assam be able to appreciate this magnanimity? It is quite possible for Mr. Cotton to be condemned for his noble act.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD,
April 14th, 1897.

55. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 14th April is of opinion that the payment of land-revenue to Government may be deferred to a more convenient date, as a great part of Orissa is in severe distress. The *Utkaldipika* of the 17th April makes a similar suggestion.

UTKALDIPIKA.
April 17th, 1897.

56. The *Utkaldipika* of the 17th April recommends the prayer of the inhabitants of Assam to have a law class attached to their College at Shillong, and observes that a province like Assam is sure to supply a goodly number of students to such a class.

UTKALDIPIKA.

57. The same paper draws the attention of Government to the prayer of the landlords of Orissa, applying for a permanent settlement of their land-revenue, and observes that Government ought to fulfil the pledges that

Postponement of land-revenue
on account of distress in Orissa.

A law class in Assam.

A permanent settlement in
Orissa.

were given more than once to those landlords, stating that a permanent settlement would be made if certain conditions were fulfilled.

58. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 14th April has reason to believe that a large number of Christian Missionaries have taken advantage of the present famine and scarcity of food to convert a large number of hungry paupers into Christians by unfair means, and requests the authorities to put a check upon Missionary over-zeal, which may at times lead to serious complications.

Christian proselytisation in famine.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 14th, 1897.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 19th June 1897.

